

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 CU-02 /088 W

----- 126115

R 140237Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5479

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

CONFIDENTIAL CANBERRA 2271

PARIS ALSO FOR UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: PLO SEEKING PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS AT UNESCO

REF: STATE 080985

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED WITH DFA APR 14 TUNISIAN EFFORT TO OB-
TAIN CO-SPONSORS FOR NEW AGENDA ITEM AT MAY 5 EXBD MEETING
OF UNESCO, WHICH WOULD GRANT PLO PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS
AT UNESCO HEADQUARTERS (REFTEL). DFA (PIPER, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BRANCH) KNEW OF
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TUNISIAN INITIATIVE, WHICH HE SAID PROBABLY REFLECTS VERY ACTIVE

ROLE BEING PLAYED BY PLO REPRESENTATIVE SUSSE (PHONETIC),
WHO IS OPERATING IN UNESCO CIRCLES IN PARIS.

2. PIPER SAID DFA VERY MUCH AWARE OF PROBLEM THIS INITIATIVE
WOULD PRESENT TO U.S., IN VIES OF ACTION ALREADY TAKEN
BY U.S. CONGRESSMAN UNESCO. HE SAID DFA WOULD HAVE TO
OBTAIN DECISION FROM MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON AUSTRALIAN
POLICY BEFORE INSTRUCTING AUSTRALIAN UNESCO REP.
HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT PLO ALREADY HAS DE FACTO PERMANENT
OBSERVER MISSION AT UN IN NEW YORK, WHICH IS RECEIVING UN
DOCUMENTATION AND ISSUING STATEMENTS ON ITS OWN BEHALF, AND
HE RECALLED UN RESOLUTION PASSED BY LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
WHICH CALLED FOR PLO TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ALL AREAS OF
UN ACTIVITY. GOA HAD ABSTAINED ON THIS RESOLUTION, BUT
IT WAS PASSED AND IS NOW A FACT. PIPER FELT LOGIC OF SITUATION
WOULD OBLIGE AUSTRALIANS TO GO ALONG WITH TUNISIAN
INITIATIVE, ALTHOUGH RECOMMENDATION TO MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS WOULD NOTE PROBLEM PASSAGE OF SUCH RESOLUTION WOULD
POSE FOR FURTHER U.S. BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR UNESCO.

3. COMMENT: ISRAEL HAS STRONG SUPPORTERS IN AUSTRALIA,
BOTH WITHIN THE GOVERNING LABOR PARTY AND WITHIN COMMUNITY
AT LARGE. MOREOVER, THERE IS ACTIVE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN
CANBERRA, WHICH IS IN CONTACT WITH SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION GROUPS.
HOWEVER, IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT AUSTRALIA, DESPITE ITS
MISGIVINGS, WILL GO ALONG WITH THE TUNISIAN INITIATIVE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL.
GREEN

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